

WELCOME TO SAINT BARBARA PARISH!

In imitation of Jesus Christ, we welcome all people to worship and celebrate God's all-inclusive love with us. Whoever you are, wherever you are in your life, we thank you for choosing to be here with us today.

PARISH OFFICE

2201 Laguna Street
Santa Barbara, CA 93105
(805) 682-4151 (Tel) • (805) 687-7841 (Fax)
www.saintbarbaraparish.org • stbabs@yahoo.com
Hours: Tuesday - Friday • 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM

SACRAMENT of RECONCILIATION

Saturdays from 3:00 PM to 4:00 PM
(Priests are also available by appointment)

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SACRAMENT of MARRIAGE

Minimum of six months' preparation time. Call the Parish Office for further information.

SACRAMENT of BAPTISM

Baptisms and baptism preparation classes may be scheduled by contacting the Parish Office. Registered parishioners only.

SACRAMENT of ANOINTING of THE SICK

After the Noon Mass on the last Sunday of the month, or please notify the Parish Office if there is a need for this sacrament.

FUNERAL ARRANGEMENTS

Contact the Parish Office as soon as possible to coordinate music, liturgy, reception, and other needs.

REGISTERING AS a PARISHIONER

New to Santa Barbara? Interested in making St. Barbara Parish your faith community? Please complete a parish registration card, available from the ushers or by calling or stopping by the Parish Office, and return it to us in the collection, at the office, or by mail.

HOW DOES ONE BECOME CATHOLIC?

The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults is a community-based process for welcoming new members into the Roman Catholic Church. If you are interested, please call the Parish Office.

ELEMENTARY RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Preparation for the Sacrament of First Reconciliation
Preparation for the Sacrament of First Eucharist
Sunday Religious Education Classes, Grades 1-6 (Oct-May)
Sunday Children's Liturgy of the Word (Oct-May)

YOUTH MINISTRY and CONFIRMATION

St. Barbara Parish junior high and high school youth are welcome to join their peers from St. Raphael Parish. Please contact John Vasellina, Youth Minister at St. Raphael Parish, for more info (805-964-3466 ext. 1).

ROSARY for PEACE

Prayed on Saturday mornings after the 7:30 Mass.

TAIZÉ PRAYER AROUND the CROSS

Contemplative prayer and song seasonally scheduled throughout the year.

SCHEDULE of MASSES

SATURDAY VIGIL

4:00 PM

SUNDAY

7:30 AM • 9:00 AM • 10:30 AM (Children's Liturgy of the Word) • 12:00 Noon

DAILY MASS in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel

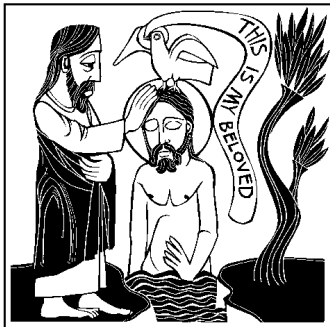
7:30 AM (Monday-Thursday, Saturday) • 12:10 PM (Friday)

HOLY DAYS

Please call (805) 682-4151 for schedule

Feast of the Baptism of the Lord

After he was baptized in the Jordan by John, Jesus took up his saving mission as the beloved Son. That saving mission is no less than calling each of us to such an intimate identity with Jesus that we are transformed by the new life of God that dwells within us. We are baptized by both water and the Spirit, beginning a life of turning from our thoughts and ways to God's thoughts and ways, becoming God's children, and continuing Jesus' ministry. By the indwelling of the Spirit we become adopted sons and daughters of God, God's "beloved," too. By this indwelling—God's very life—Jesus' mission is our own mission. Jesus' way of living is our own way of living. Baptism is not so much what is done to us as what we are able to do because of our new relationship through the Spirit with God and each other.



Only by opening ourselves to the action of God within us through the Spirit are we able to take up Jesus' saving mission. Indeed, baptism is more than receiving a certificate attesting that we have gone through a ceremony and are "card-carrying" members of the Body of Christ. Our baptismal commitment entails taking up Christ's saving mission. At this baptism Jesus took up his saving mission as the beloved Son. At our own baptism we unite ourselves with Christ as his Body (becoming God's children) and commit ourselves to take up this same saving mission. At the heart of this mission is being faithful to the relationship with God that our baptism begins, and proclaiming to others God's continued mighty deeds undertaken for our salvation.

QUESTION OF THE WEEK

What is preventing me from recognizing that I am chosen and upheld by a delighted God who is well pleased with me?

DEAR PARISHIONERS and VISITORS,

In today's gospel Mark takes us to the Jordan River where Jesus is baptized by John. John has a following, and has proclaimed that one who is mightier than he will baptize them with the Holy Spirit. I understand that only the chosen few (Kings and Prophets) were given the guidance of the Holy Spirit before Pentecost. The people at the Jordan River would have heard of this Baptism with the Holy Spirit with doubt and astonishment.

In 2000 our parish took a Jubilee Pilgrimage to the Holy Land. I was privileged to go along and be able to renew my baptismal vows in the Jordan River. There were Pilgrims from all over the world and some people being baptized for the first time in white robes. It was exciting and I even brought home some Jordan water. So today, I can almost see the river, John and Jesus and the crowd that gathered. Mark's gospel depicts a personal revelation of Jesus' identity by a voice from heaven, as well as a Spirit like a dove. Jesus hears the voice seemingly inaudible to others. Out of this knowing and intimate relationship with His Father, Jesus led his life of total love and surrender and service even to death on the cross. He knew he was loved and knew to whom he belonged.

Two years ago at my granddaughter Finley Kathleen's baptism, the priest told us that these words were addressed to Finley that day and to each of us who are baptized. We are the sons and daughters of God and through our baptism God claims each of us as His own. Our daughter and son-in-law were charged with the responsibility of making sure our little one knew of the special love God has for her. She wasn't to have this knowledge be big news later in life. She would have a sure identity and an awareness of her intimate relationship with God. It was our responsibility as grandparents, as well, to make sure she knew this love of God for her.

In the world today, it seems like so many people are longing for a true identity and sense of belonging and love. I think of the tragedy of the number of today's young people in gangs and other destructive groups. These children will do anything to belong, even violence. If we can live out our true identities as God's beloved children, what a different world it would be. We are blessed to know through God's Word, the Eucharist, our Church and the gift of faith just who we belong to. We need look no further for our home.

Is there someone today who needs to hear again this good news? Perhaps you will be the one to bring this awareness of God's love to them. If they know they are loved and to whom they belong, imagine the happiness and freedom they can find.

Blessings of Peace and all good,
Kathy Valenta, Pastoral Council Member

PREPARE FOR NEXT SUNDAY'S LITURGY

Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

First Reading—1 Samuel 3:3b-10, 19
Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening.

Responsorial Psalm—Psalm 40
Here am I, Lord; I come to do your will.

Second Reading—1 Corinthians 6:13c-15a, 17-20
Your bodies are members of Christ;
glorify God in your body.

Gospel—John 1:35-42
The first disciples saw where Jesus was staying and they stayed with him.

REFLECTION on NEXT SUNDAY'S LITURGY of THE WORD

John the Baptist's role is to identify Jesus as the Lamb of God, who will forgive the sins of the world. This statement recognizes Jesus' importance and leads John's disciples to leave him to follow Jesus, the Son of God. In this short section of the gospel, much is said about openness, for example, the ability to accept the word about Jesus and letting one's heart be moved.

Life Focus

- Relate an experience when you met someone who helped you change your priorities, values or outlook.
- How has someone else's willingness to try something new or to meet a new person changed you?
- Relate a time when you were stubborn about a new experience but eventually realized its value.
- What are you really looking for in your life?



May we be ever faithful to our baptismal call to continue the saving mission of Jesus.

DO YOU KNOW...

The Gospel of Mark

The second gospel takes our breath away with its rapid telling of the events of Jesus' public ministry. A mere sixteen chapters from beginning to end, the Gospel of Mark is both the shortest and earliest of the four gospels in the Bible.

Archeologists and textual experts have dated this gospel to about 70 CE, at least a few decades after the death of Jesus. This date, which many Christians find to be quite late, does not mean that the stories were brand-new at the time; it means that earlier Christians so expected the second coming of Christ in their own lifetimes that they did not take the time to sit down and write. The stories were passed along orally until later in the first century.

The Gospel of Mark gives us a unique portrait of Jesus, which can be drawn as much from what the gospel does not contain as from what it does. The story begins, for example, not with a story of the birth of Jesus, as do the Gospels of Matthew and Luke. No magi or shepherds for Mark! The end of the Gospel had a unique abbreviation as well. The original version of Mark ended not with 16:20 (as do our Bibles, centuries later), but with verse 16:8. The original text left hearers pondering disciples who had run away and tomb-visiting women who had fled the scene "frightened out of their wits." Verses 16:9-20 were added a short time later.

Between its abrupt beginning and incomplete ending—an empty tomb, but no resurrection—the gospel plunges us into the whirlwind of Jesus' activity, which is described in a sometimes harsh, spare style. Along the way Jesus preaches and prophesies, hollers and heals, teaches and tells tales up to his coming to Jerusalem, where his life as one of us ends, but the story just begins. (Perhaps we are the disciples who must now live in the mystery of the empty tomb.)

The portrait of Jesus sketched by Mark is difficult for Christians to hear. Because of its content of suffering and tribulation, some have called it a "passion narrative with a long introduction." Throughout the story, Jesus anticipates his death, and he draws the listener in to focus on this aspect of the Christian life.

The Gospel of Mark is proclaimed on Sundays in Year B, the years 2009, 2012, 2015 and so on.

In art, the evangelist Mark is portrayed with a lion by his side. The feast of Saint Mark is April 25.

CATHOLIC HOMECOMING

St. Barbara Parish is reaching out to non-practicing Catholics by offering a program called Catholic Homecoming. Catholic Homecoming will meet for six weeks starting on Sunday, January 11. The program offers a gentle way for returning Catholics to share their faith and consider their response to God's loving invitation.

If you have family members or friends who are no longer practicing their Catholic faith, tell them about Catholic Homecoming. More information is available by calling Andrea Duda at (805) 682-4151 x201.

STEWARDSHIP of TREASURE

Christmas	\$27,925
Sunday, December 28th	\$11,855
Sunday, January 4th	\$21,237



As we begin a new year, let us take time to plan and make stewardship of time and talent a part of our lifestyle and stewardship of treasure a part of our budget.

LET US PRAY for THE SICK

Mark Etzel " John Tapia
 Maria Muñoz " Catharene Purdy
 Rose Margaret Braiden " Bob Carman
 LeeAnne Kryder " Dorothy McClellan

May they know Christ's healing.

TOGETHER in MISSION ANNUAL APPEAL

"Together in Mission" is our opportunity to support 32 parishes and 46 schools in the Archdiocese of Los Angeles that are in need. Many thanks to those who have already responded with either one-time donations or pledges.

...WE ARE STILL \$3,910 SHORT OF OUR GOAL!

The Archdiocese has formally requested full payment. If you have not yet made a donation or paid your pledged amount, please do so.

MINISTRY to the HOMEBOUND

If someone you know is not able to come to Mass, or would like a minister to take Communion to their home, please call the Parish Office to make arrangements. Also, with the permission of the person who is ill, we are happy to include their name in the Prayer of the Faithful and list it in the bulletin.

ALTAR SERVER TRAINING

Training for young, new Altar Servers will begin on Monday, January 12 at 4PM in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel. Any adults interested in becoming Altar Servers should contact Bob or Claudia Chyla at 683-4966 for more information.

PARISH CALENDAR

- Jan 12 Altar Server Training at 4PM in the Church
- Jan 14 Leadership Meeting, 6:30PM
- Jan 15 RCIA Meeting at 6:30PM
- Jan 15 Fr. Daniel's Scripture Study, 7PM
- Jan 16 Fr. Daniel's Scripture Study, 10AM
- Jan 17 Ministry Dinner at Serra Hall
- Jan 18 Catholic Homecoming Meeting at 1:30PM in the Parish Social Room
- Jan 20 Pastoral Council Meeting at 6:45PM
- Jan 21 Finance Committee Meeting at 6:30PM
- Jan 22 RCIA Meeting at 6:30PM
- Jan 25 Franciscan Missionary Union Collection
- Jan 25 Sacrament Preparation Meeting for Parents 9:15AM in the Social Room
- Jan 25 Catholic Homecoming Meeting at 1:30PM in the Parish Social Room
- Jan 29 RCIA Meeting at 6:30PM



SAY "HELLO" to our NEW PARISHIONERS!

JOHN and CHERYL AMBRECHT
 RACHEL CRAIG
 CHRISTA-LYNN DONOVAN
 KENNETH VAMPOLA

THE 2009 CALENDARS are HERE

All registered parishioners are invited to pick up their copy of the 2009 calendar in the Parish Office after Mass. One calendar per family, please.

NEW MINISTRY SCHEDULE

A new Ministry Schedule for the months of January and February is now available. Please be sure to pick up your copy in the Sacristy, the Porter's Office or the Parish Office.

RELIGIOUS CONGRESS 2009

The annual Religious education Congress held in Anaheim is ready to enrich and revitalize us once more. Sponsored by the Office of Religious Education at the Archdiocese of Los Angeles, Congress draws in excess of 40,000 participants over the course of this internationally acclaimed four-day event. The annual Congress' international presence continues to grow, with participants attending from many different countries. This year there will be more than 280 workshops available to choose from, covering a vast range of topics and interests from spirituality and personal development to biblical studies, theology and catechesis. This year the Congress is scheduled for February 27 through March 1 and focuses on the theme "Love Unfolding...Igniting our Yes!" Over the weekend participants will enjoy morning praise, workshops, evening liturgies and a variety of prayer experiences with internationally renowned leaders in the areas of liturgical music and worship. Concerts at noon-time and evening offer additional opportunities for praise and worship—delightful experiences which engage and renew participants!

For more information or to register, stop by the Parish Office for a guidebook, call the R.E. Congress info line at (213) 637-7348, or visit www.RECongress.org. In addition, the parish will be hosting a Friday night dinner for all parishioners who attend.

CLERGY APPRECIATION NIGHT

The Knights of Columbus are sponsoring a clergy and religious appreciation night at Bishop Garcia Diego High School on Thursday, January 28. No-host cocktails at 6PM; dinner at 7PM. The featured speaker will be Bishop Thomas Curry. Tickets are \$15. Please call 568-0123.

RENEWAL CENTER RETREAT

"Searching for Your Heart's Desire" women's retreat. January 16-18, 2009. \$190 single occupancy/\$160 double occupancy/\$110 commuter. Register with a friend and each receive \$10 discount. For information or to register, please call the Old Mission Renewal Center Office at (805) 682-4713 ext 133. For more retreat info and on-line registration, go to www.santabarbaramission.org.

TRAVELING?

Don't forget to go to Mass!

For nationwide Mass times and locations, please visit www.MassTimes.org.



THANKS from ST. VINCENT de PAUL

The St. Vincent de Paul Conference extends its appreciation for the food and the money contributed at the Thanksgiving Mass on Thanksgiving Day. The food delivered to Catholic Charities Pantry helped re-stock their shelves, which were depleted from pre-holiday requests for groceries. The money collected will be used by our Conference to assist families with rent, utilities, and food from local supermarkets.

We also want to thank the parish members and visitors who contributed blankets, quilts and money to our Annual Blanket Drive for Project Recovery. The funds will help us to buy linens and blankets for the detox center, and will help with some of the needs of individuals referred to us by Project Recovery. In addition, some of these funds will be used to buy sleeping bags for the homeless. The bags will be donated to Casa Esperanza Homeless Center for distribution.

RECYCLE SIGHT

Donate used and old eyeglasses to the Lions Sight and Hearing Center. For information, please call 569-8264.

GIVING WREATH

We would like to thank all of our parishioners who so generously helped with the collection of food and clothing for the immigrant farm workers in Guadalupe. We provided to Beatitude Catholic Worker house staff over 100 Christmas bags of ham, rice, beans, crackers and peanut butter. They were delivered on the Tuesday before Christmas to the ever-growing population of families suffering from poverty. (Special thanks to St. Vincent de Paul volunteers for providing us with transportation!) We collected over 120 hams (some purchased with donated cash), 116 boxes of crackers, 115 jars of peanut butter, 324 pounds of beans, and 167 pounds of rice. Miscellaneous cans of beans, tuna and pasta were also donated. It was a freezing cold Monday when we delivered the gifts, so we knew the 24 scarves and pairs of gloves and the 60 hats were truly welcome items. Clothing was set in a room at the Catholic Worker house on food delivery day in neat, folded piles. Families chose a lottery number, then had a short time to choose three items during their turn in the room. There were a few used items in the room when we arrived, and we assure you our new, warm clothing provided special Christmas gifts for the "shoppers" on that Tuesday.

- JPIC Ministers